

Establish High-Risk Team



Initiating the Process

The formation and implementation of a High-Risk Team (HRT) using a lethality assessment tool may be initiated by any interested stakeholder(s) with a role in the community's response to intimate partner violence (IPV) within a city, county, judicial district, or any other defined geographical regions in Kansas. However, if the initiating stakeholder is not the community-based domestic violence agency or law enforcement agency, these agencies must be identified and consulted prior to moving forward.

Establish which category best correlates with the targeted geographic territory or judicial district.

- The community has an HRT but needs a lethality assessment to screen high-risk IPV cases;
- the community utilizes a lethality assessment but needs an HRT for managing high-risk IPV cases;
- the community does not have an HRT or lethality assessment tool for managing high-risk IPV cases; or
- the community has a coordinated community response addressing domestic violence responses.

A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a multidisciplinary team of representatives working in partnership to improve the domestic violence response. If the community has a formalized CCR multidisciplinary team, the CCR will often initiate a community HRT and lethality assessment process or assist other community stakeholders in forming an HRT and lethality assessment framework. The following table illustrates the differences between a CCR and an HRT:

Coordinated Community Response	High-Risk Team
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing information internally for interagency training• Community awareness and prevention• Enhancing response protocols• Utilize case review to identify gaps in system response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing information collaboratively and strategizing together• Case-specific plans• Coordinated agency intervention• Review, manage, and monitor active cases

Forming a CCR is optional and not necessary for establishing an HRT utilizing a lethality assessment tool. However, a CCR does provide an avenue, outside of individual case reviews, to develop items such as agency level policies, protocols, and trends. Existing resources are available for creating and strengthening a CCR multidisciplinary team. The [Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence](#) can provide training and technical assistance regarding CCR development or expansion.



Other helpful resources on coordinated community response include:

- [Coordination Models – Battered Women's Justice Project](#)
- [A Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence – Ellen Pence](#)
- [The Duluth Model – Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs](#)
- [CCR/SART Development Toolkit – NCCASA & NCCADV](#)
- [Wisconsin Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence CCR Toolkit – WCASA](#)

Identify High-Risk Team Members

Formation of the HRT requires an integrated interagency approach to IPV throughout the criminal justice system, which begins by identifying potential members. Below is a list of potential members for the HRT from criminal justice system and community-based agencies:

- Public Safety Answering Point, 911 dispatch;
- Law Enforcement Agencies/Tribal Police;
- Law Enforcement Victim Advocates;
- Prosecutors (Municipal, County and District);
- Court Personnel;
- Probation and Parole services;
- Local Jail and State Prison;
- Local Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocate Programs; and
- Batterer Intervention Program.

The stakeholder contacting potential HRT members should communicate:

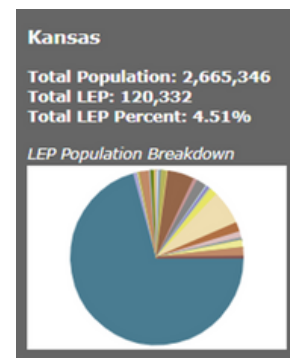
- What they hope to accomplish by implementing the HRT and lethality assessment framework;
- Why a representative from the agency is needed; and
- A commitment to send a representative to an initial meeting to learn more about the HRT and lethality assessment framework.

For additional guidance, review the [Community Tool Box's Creating and Maintaining Coalitions and Partnerships Toolkit](#).

Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities* [6]

The HRT must consult directly with culturally specific community organizations. Kansas communities have culturally diverse and underserved IPV victims and survivors. Marginalized victims and survivors of IPV often connect with organizations representing their identity/identities before, or in place of, calling law enforcement or a community-based domestic violence and sexual assault agency.

- Immigration or Refugee services;
- Tribal organizations;
- Organization specific to communities of color;
- Religious organizations/churches;
- An attorney, legal aid organization, and/or law firm that specializes in working with marginalized communities, such as an immigration attorney;
- Area Agencies on Aging;
- Organizations that serve individuals with disabilities; and
- Organizations that serve individuals who identify as LGBTQ+.



*limited English proficiency (LEP)

By developing a partnership with these programs, the response to victims and survivors seeking assistance can be done in an appropriate and culturally responsive manner. [2020 Racial and Ethnic Diversity Map](#)

The English language may also be a barrier in 4.51 percent of the Kansas population. HRT members can identify the non-English speaking populations in the area at [2015 Language Map App | LEP](#).

[6]*Additional resources and technical assistance provided by national experts recognized for their work with culturally specific and/or traditionally marginalized communities, include but not limited to [Ujima](#), [Esperanza United](#), [Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence](#), [Activating Change, Inc.](#), and the [Alliance of Local Service Organizations](#), to name a few.



HRT Assess Community

The following community assessment tools will aid HRT members in determining the community's resources to implement and sustain an HRT and lethality assessment framework and to define protocols.

[Sample Timeline](#)

Community Assessment Tools

- **Community Capacity** – to assess a community's needs, partnerships, and readiness to initiate a lethality assessment and/or high-risk teams
- **Community Inventory** – to create a full inventory of community's resources and data as it relates to domestic violence
- **Strengths and Challenges Analysis** – to analyze community's strengths and opportunities for improvement in the domestic violence response systems
- **System Mapping** – to construct the flow of information throughout the criminal justice process for a domestic violence case
- **Statutory Framework Analysis** – to identify local and state laws and policies

Identify Coordinator

The HRT will require a leadership position or positions to manage the work. Whether this position is full-time, part-time, or comprised of co-coordinators, it is strongly recommended the HRT employ a community-based domestic violence victim advocate to serve in this role.[7] It is also helpful to have a law enforcement officer as co-coordinator. Consensus should be established on whether the position is paid, or other benefits are created for managing the HRT.

[HRT Coordinator Duties](#)

[7]Many domestic violence agencies are non-profit nongovernmental organizations in “that the agency is not subject to any personnel or priority reorganization due to political shifts or union requirements”, which can help ensure consistency. Source: Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. (n.d.) Domestic Violence High Risk Team. <http://dvhrt.org/info/frequently-asked-questions>